

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for transfer of previously issued employee stock options from employees holding the employee stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock options, the method performed at least partially by a computer system, and comprising:

using the computer system to provide ~~providing~~ a decision period for transfer of employee stock options from the employees holding the stock options to the a first party without exercise of the stock options, the decision period having a first part, and a second part;

using the computer system to provide ~~providing~~ a plurality of option value prices during the first part of the decision period, the plurality of option value prices determined at least partially by the computer system; ~~and~~

using the computer system to determine ~~determining~~ a stock price during the second part of the decision period;

using the computer system to determine ~~corresponding to~~ a particular one of the plurality of option value prices corresponding to the determined stock price; ~~during the second part of the decision period~~

using the computer system to transfer the employee stock option to the first party following the second part of the decision period, without exercise of the stock option; and

using the computer system to provide at least part of the particular one of the

plurality of option value prices to the employee in exchange for the transfer.

2. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising prorating transfer of the employee stock options, by transfer of less than a tendered number of options.

3. (original) A method according to claim 2, wherein prorating is proportional across all transferred options.

4. (original) A method according to claim 2, wherein prorating is by first election for transfer first transferred.

5. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein providing a plurality of option value prices uses an option pricing formula.

6. (original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the option pricing formula is selected from the group consisting of Black-Scholes, binomial and trinomial methods.

7. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein providing a plurality of option value prices provides the plurality of prices in an option-price grid.

8. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein determining a stock price further comprises determining an average stock trading price over a predetermined period

of time.

9. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein determining a stock price further comprises determining a stock trading price at a predetermined point in time.

10. (currently amended) A method for transfer of previously issued employee stock options from employees holding the employee stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock options, the method performed at least partially by a computer system, and comprising:

using the computer system to provide ~~providing~~ a plurality of transfer periods for transfer of employee stock options from the employees holding the stock options to the a first party without exercise of the stock options;

using the computer system to provide ~~providing~~ a plurality of decision periods during each transfer period;

using an option pricing formula with the computer system to determine an option value price;

using the computer system to provide the ~~providing an~~ option value price during each decision period, ~~the option value price determined at least partially by the computer system;~~

using the computer system to receive an election for transfer of employee stock options during a particular decision period from an employee holding the stock options; and

~~using an option pricing formula with the computer system to determine the option value price~~ after the particular decision period, using the computer system to execute an order for transfer of the employee stock options from the employee holding the stock options to the first

party without exercise of the stock options.

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A method according to claim 10, further comprising:
~~electing transfer of employee stock options during a particular decision period;~~
and prorating transfer of the employee stock options without exercise of the stock options, by
transfer of less than a tendered number of options.

13. (original) A method according to claim 12, wherein prorating is
proportional across all transferred options.

14. (original) A method according to claim 12, wherein prorating is by first
election for transfer first transferred.

15. (currently amended) A computer system for transfer of previously issued
employee stock options from employees holding the employee stock options to a first party
without exercise of the stock options, the system comprising:

computer system means for providing a decision period for transfer of employee
stock options from the employees holding the stock options to the a first party without exercise
of the stock options, the decision period having a first part, and a second part;

computer system means for providing a plurality of option value prices during the
first part of the decision period; ~~and~~

computer system means for determining a stock price during the second part of the decision period;

computer system means for determining ~~corresponding to~~ a particular one of the plurality of option value prices corresponding to the determined stock price; during the second part of the decision period

computer system means for transferring the employee stock option to the first party following the second part of the decision period, without exercise of the stock option; and

computer system means for providing at least part of the particular one of the plurality of option value prices to the employee in exchange for the transfer.

16. (currently amended) A computer system for transfer of previously issued employee stock options from employees holding the employee stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock options, the system comprising:

computer system means for providing a plurality of transfer periods for transfer of employee stock options from the employees holding the stock options to the a first party without exercise of the stock options;

computer system means for providing a plurality of decision periods during each transfer period;

computer system means for determining an option value price using an option pricing formula;

computer system means for providing the an option value price during each decision period;

computer system means for receiving an election for transfer of employee stock

options during a particular decision period from an employee holding the stock options; and
after the particular decision period, computer system means for using an option
pricing formula to determine the option value price executing an order for transfer of the
employee stock options from the employee holding the stock options to the first party without
exercise of the stock options.

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer
executable software code stored thereon, the code for transfer of previously issued employee
stock options from employees holding the employee stock options to a first party without
exercise of the stock options, the code comprising:

code to provide a decision period for transfer of employee stock options from the
employees holding the stock options to the a first party without exercise of the stock options, the
decision period having a first part, and a second part;

code to provide a plurality of option value prices during the first part of the
decision period; ~~and~~

code to determine a stock price during the second part of the decision period;

code to determine corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of option
value prices corresponding to the determined stock price; during the second part of the decision
period

code to transfer the employee stock option to the first party following the second
part of the decision period, without exercise of the stock option; and

code to provide at least part of the particular one of the plurality of option value prices to the employee in exchange for the transfer.

19. (currently amended) A programmed computer for transfer of previously issued employee stock options from employees holding the employee stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock options, comprising:

a memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program code; and

a processor for executing the program code stored in the memory, wherein the program code comprises:

code to provide a decision period for transfer of employee stock options from the employees holding the stock options to the a first party without exercise of the stock options, the decision period having a first part, and a second part;

code to provide a plurality of option value prices during the first part of the decision period; ~~and~~

code to determine a stock price during the second part of the decision period;

code to determine corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of option value prices corresponding to the determined stock price; during the second part of the decision period

code to transfer the employee stock option to the first party following the second part of the decision period, without exercise of the stock option; and

code to provide at least part of the particular one of the plurality of option value prices to the employee in exchange for the transfer.

20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer executable software code stored thereon, the code for transfer of previously issued employee stock options from employees holding the employee stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock options, the code comprising:

code to provide a plurality of transfer periods for transfer of employee stock options from the employees holding the stock options to the a first party without exercise of the stock options;

code to provide a plurality of decision periods during each transfer period;

code to determine an option value price using an option pricing formula;

code to provide the an option value price during each decision period;

code to receive an election for transfer of employee stock options during a particular decision period from an employee holding the stock options; and

after the particular decision period, code to use an option pricing formula to determine the option value price execute an order for transfer of the employee stock options from the employee holding the stock options to the first party without exercise of the stock options.

22. (currently amended) A programmed computer for transfer of previously issued employee stock options from employees holding the employee stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock options, comprising:

a memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program

code; and

a processor for executing the program code stored in the memory, wherein the program code comprises:

code to provide a plurality of transfer periods for transfer of employee stock options from the employees holding the stock options to the a first party without exercise of the stock options;

code to provide a plurality of decision periods during each transfer period;

code to determine an option value price using an option pricing formula;

code to provide the an option value price during each decision period;

code to receive an election for transfer of employee stock options during a particular decision period from an employee holding the stock options; and

after the particular decision period, code to use an option pricing formula to determine the option value price execute an order for transfer of the employee stock options from the employee holding the stock options to the first party without exercise of the stock options.

23. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first party is not an employer of the employee.